

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Public Policy Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
July 15, 2004**

Present: Diana Zottman, B.J. Flaherty (co-chairs), Janet Adams, Bill Anderson, Kim Blume, Angie Brothers, Lori Flood, Sherri Huwe, Phil Jordan. Sara McQueed, Michael Raymond

Absent: Joelle Brouner, David Kludt, Julie Williamson-Purdy

Staff: Donna Patrick

Call to Order/Adjustments to Agenda/
Approval of Minutes

B.J. called the meeting to order. The agenda was reviewed and adjusted to remove the reports on mental health and the Children's CARE assessment tool. Linda Role will be discussing the CARE tool with the full Council on Friday.

VOTE: Committee approve the May minutes. Moved by Michael, seconded by Lori. Motion passed.

Federal Issues

Eva reviewed the update on federal issues. There has been no substantial movement on most issues. New developments include proposals to add money and language on Alzheimer's in the Lifespan Respite Care Act, fund mass transit in the Transportation Act, extend the federal government's extra share of Medicaid costs (FMAP), fund consolidation under No Child Left Behind and fund Special Olympics.

Development Day Review

The committee would like to see some follow up on the strategic planning process presented at the May Development Day. Four options were discussed:

1. Practice the strategic planning process using either the Council's State Plan or reviewing DD

services. The committee suggests that start in May 2005.

2. Council conduct leadership public policy training as suggested in the meeting last January. An example is role-playing about legislative process in Olympia.

3. Explore public policy opportunities after Council membership. An example is having the boards and commissions person from the Governor's office talk to the Council about boards and commissions, both the training and what is available out there. Most Council members have not been able to attend the Governor's boards and commissions training because it conflicts with Council meetings.

Sara McQueed expressed an interest in serving as the Council's representative on a new DSHS Boarding Home Advisory Committee.

4. Individual Council members who wish could do a legislative internship in Olympia with Donna.

Legislative Agenda / Issues Reading 04-P6

It was asked when there might be talking points or background papers on the Council's legislative issues. They should be available after the issues are finalized and draft legislation prepared. Many of the information sheets that people like are prepared be the Arc for Advocacy Days during session.

Phil explained that P&A expects to take the lead on hearsay and voting rights in the 2005 session, plus work collaboratively with others on mental health parity, consumer run services in the state mental health system and the DD community trust account.

Self-Determination and Employment Workgroup asked that the Council put special emphasis on transition students graduating from high school who need employment supports.

Wording changes were made to the draft of the Council's 2005 Legislative Agenda to strengthen the Medicaid and revenue growth statements.

MOTION: The Committee approve the 2005 Council Agenda as amended. Moved by Kim and seconded by Michael. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of respite as a licensing issue, DD foster homes and where foster children are served. It was asked how many of DDD's foster children are served in the Children's Administration (not due to abuse, neglect or abandonment). The group wants more information.

Additionally, the committee learned that people will need to ask their attorneys in guardianship proceedings to seal the records, including retroactively, if they don't want the records to be put online with all other court records.

Council Downsizing Policy Reading 04-P7
Phil would like to see the Council move toward a stronger policy on downsizing institutions.

MOTION: Add the following statement to the Council's Public Policy / Legislative Issues list: The Legislature should continue the process of consolidating RHCs and redirect the operational savings to community supports and services that enable people with developmental disabilities to live and participate in their communities. Moved by Phil, seconded by Michael.

Bill disputed that there is any savings and reviewed the overall initial costs of downsizing Fircrest. Besides no savings, capacity is reduced; especially for emergency respite; professional services are lost and choice is restricted. Consolidation imposes one person's choice on another. Others felt that costs vs. savings is not the only or most important issue.

MOTION: Change the words "operational savings" to "resources" in the motion. Moved by Phil, seconded by Michael. Motion passed with five votes for, one against and five abstaining.

MOTION: Approve the Council's Public Policies / Legislative Issues list as amended. Moved by Michael, seconded by Sara. Motion passed with eight votes for, one against and two abstentions.

2005 Legislative Reception

Donna handed out draft flyers for the 2005 Legislative Reception. She noted that it will be on January 19 2005 and will be held in the Legislative Building on the capital campus

Report to the Council

- Approved Legislative Agenda and Public Policy Issues with changes
- Discussed follow up to Development Day
- Reviewed federal issues

Next month's agenda

- History on Policy No. 103 RHC Consolidation
- Discuss "choice" and what it means
- CARE tool adaptation for children
- Voluntary Placement Program and foster children in Children's Administration